

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Number: WIAB01-58

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)  
UPDATE

This information bulletin identifies a variety of Web sources that contain useful information relating to HIPAA. This federal law makes it possible for dislocated workers to continue their health insurance coverage after losing their jobs. We believe that Rapid Response practitioners and One-Stop Career Center staff will find this information to be very useful in assisting dislocated workers.

This information bulletin also replaces WIA Information Bulletin WIAB01-45 on the same subject. It incorporates and corrects the content of WIAB01-45 and provides information about additional resources.

Information Bulletin WIAB01-45 provided the following primary Web-link, but incorrectly stated that it is connected to a Department of Labor (DOL) site: [www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/hipaa/online/default.asp](http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/hipaa/online/default.asp). In fact, this link is connected to the homepage of the Health Care Financing Administration (also known as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Our error does not compromise the usability of the information at that Web site which is completely authoritative.

The DOL also offers resources on HIPAA that Rapid Response practitioners will find useful in helping dislocated workers:

- A new two-page fact-sheet about Job Loss and Health Benefits will be found at [www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/factsht092701.htm](http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/factsht092701.htm).
- A two-page fact-sheet specifically on HIPAA is located at: [www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/hipaafs.htm](http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/hipaafs.htm).
- A 97-page publication on HIPAA is located at: [www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/hippa.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/public/pubs/hippa.pdf).

A Question and Answer notice from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is located at: <ftp://ftp.irs.ustreas.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-98-12.pdf>. An alternate way to access this information is located at the middle of the following Web page: [www.irs.ustreas.gov/news/index.html](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/news/index.html).

These IRS sites contain information which will help individuals with continuing medical conditions to understand that to obtain HIPAA protections they need to elect the (rather expensive) health care continuation coverage which the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) makes available to them.

If you have questions about these resources, you may contact Tina Ly at (415) 975-4600, (Northern California) or Lasonja Bush at (626) 229-1000 (Southern California). Both are staff experts with the DOL's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

/S/ BILL BURKE  
Chief